

Winter wheat crop may be second biggest

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government says the 1976 winter wheat harvest could be the second-largest ever but cautions that the crop by no means is in the bag.

Based on surveys Dec. 1, the Agriculture Department said Monday that next year's winter wheat could be almost 1.5 billion bushels. Although that would be down 9 per cent from this year's record, the crop would exceed 1974 output by 8 per cent.

Winter wheat is planted in the fall and harvested the following summer. It comprises about three-fourths of total U.S. wheat production and, while grown nationwide, is concentrated in the Great Plains from Texas to Montana.

The department's Crop Reporting Board said the condition of winter wheat ranges from "poor to excellent" across the country. Further, the board said, as of Dec. 1 crop prospects "were less than optimistic" in most of the Great Plains.

"This major wheat-producing area was plagued during most of the early seeding period by dry weather," the report said.

Although rain and snow helped relieve dry conditions in November in most of the Plains, officials said its effects "will not be known until spring" when winter wheat emerges from cold-weather dormancy and begins new growth.

Meanwhile, if the winter crop does turn out as the department now forecasts, it could mean ample supplies for consumers and export markets through mid-1977.

But much still depends on how exports continue to develop and the remainder of the crop farmers will plant in the spring for harvest later in the year.

Farmers produced 488 million bushels of spring wheat in 1975, meaning a total harvest of more than 2.1 billion bushels this year, including more than 1.6 billion bushels of winter wheat.

Thus, if the 1976 spring wheat crop matches this year's output, the total U.S. wheat harvest could be 1.99 billion bushels.

Placed on FBI wanted list

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Leonard Peltier, added to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's 10 most wanted fugitives list Monday, became the fifth person with Wisconsin ties on the list.

Peltier was indicted Nov. 25 at Rapid City, S.D., in connection with the fatal shootings of two FBI agents. He also is sought on a federal warrant charging unlawful flight to avoid prosecution in an alleged 1972 murder attempt on a Milwaukee police officer.

Peltier, 31, a Grand Forks, N.D., native and member of the American Indian Movement, is the only one of four persons sought in connection with the South Dakota shootings who remains at large. He also was indicted following an Oregon incident last November on nine counts of violating the National Firearms Act.

Others with Wisconsin ties on the FBI most wanted list are Dwight A. Armstrong, 24; Leo F. Burt, 27; David S. Fine, 23; and Benjamin Paddock, 49.

Armstrong, Burt and Fine are sought in connection with a fatal 1970 bombing at the University of Wisconsin campus in Madison.

Paddock, a Sheboygan native, has been on the list since 1969 after escaping from federal custody. He had been serving a 20-year sentence for a bank robbery in Phoenix, Ariz.



SANDRA GOOD

A handcuffed Sandra Good gestures with a finger while in the custody of federal officers. The 31-year-old Charles Manson follower was arrested Monday along with Susan Murphy on charges of conspiracy to mail threatening letters. (AP Wirephoto)

Indict two in plot to threaten business, government leaders

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — One of the last of Charles Manson's original band has been indicted with another woman on charges of conspiring to mail 171 threatening letters to business and government leaders.

The indictment was issued Monday against Sandra Good, 31, former roommate of Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme, convicted of trying to assassinate President Ford and sentenced to life imprisonment. Susan "Heather" Murphy, 28, a former nurse, was indicted on the same charge, and Miss Fromme was named as an unindicted co-conspirator.

FBI agents arrested Miss Good and Miss Murphy at Miss Good's apartment soon after a federal grand jury returned the sealed indictment. Their arraignment was scheduled later today but there was some expectation it might be delayed.

As she was driven from her apartment, Miss Good rolled down a window in the back seat of the FBI car and asked, "What about Nixon and his friends and their conspiracy?"

Miss Fromme was Miss Good's roommate until she was arrested Sept. 5 in Sacramento after pointing a .45 caliber pistol at Ford. Both women were early followers of Manson, the convicted murderer of actress Sharon Tate and six other persons. Most of Manson's early followers are either in jail or have dropped their allegiance to him.

Miss Fromme and Miss Good have urged a halt to pollution of the earth and say an "International People's Court of Retribution" would act against polluters. Miss Good said the court had members in major cities around the world.

Last Sept. 11, Miss Good released a list of 70 government and business leaders and firms, saying they were marked for death by such a court unless they stopped polluting the earth.

The indictment accuses Miss Good and Miss Murphy, said to be a more recent convert to Manson's philosophy, of conspiring with Miss Fromme over at least a three-month period to mail the letters.

It says that on the same day Miss Fromme was arrested, Miss Good and Miss Murphy gave the letters to a friend, Michael Davies, and asked him to mail them. Instead, said Asst. U.S. Atty. Bruce Babcock, Davies turned the letters over to the FBI.

Babcock would not reveal to

whom the letters were addressed except to say that they were business and government officials. But he said threats were similar to those made by Miss Good when she released the so-called death list.

The charges carry a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. They were held in lieu of \$50,000 bond each.

Babcock said Miss Fromme was not indicted in connection with the alleged letter plot because she had already been convicted of trying to kill Ford.

Court to hear two complaints by environmentalists

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — The Wisconsin Supreme Court Monday decided to take jurisdiction in two complaints brought by Wisconsin's Environmental Decade.

The court will hear arguments Jan. 20 on the organization's objection that part of a \$60 million bond sale planned by Wisconsin Electric Power Co. might be used to finance the Koshkonong nuclear power plant.

The plant has not yet been approved by the state Public Service Commission.

Circuit Judge Richard Bardwell in Dane County recently approved sale of the bonds, but said the utility was proceeding at its own risk if the reason for which the bonds was issued later turned out to be illegal.

The power company then postponed the sale, saying Bardwell's comments had scared off investors. The utility wants the high court to affirm the validity of the bond issue.

The second case involves the decade's test of powers of the legislature's Joint Committee for the Review of Administrative Rule. Last summer it suspended a rule setting heat loss maximums for new public buildings.

The decade contends the panel's suspension power is unconstitutional. The Supreme Court said it will hear arguments sometime in March.

State may buy Wolf River tract

ANTIGO, Wis. (AP) — State officials reportedly are appraising a tract of land along the Wolf River in Langlade County for possible purchase to avoid construction of a subdivision at the site.

Max Johnson, area fishery manager at Antigo for the Department of Natural Resources, said the appraisal involves the possibility of buying either the 40 acres of land or a strip along the river.

"We'd like the entire tract," he added.

Earlier this year, James Hoe, an Antigo clothier, petitioned the Langlade County Board for permission to subdivide the land, located south of Lily.

The state opposed permitting the development, saying it is seeking to buy available land and preserve scenic areas of the Wolf in their natural state.

The County Board's Water and Land Use Committee deferred action pending the DNR's negotiations with Hoe.

Claims state unprepared to place children when institutions close

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — The Department of Health and Social Services has no clear policy toward the placement of youngsters at two state institutions scheduled to close next year, a state legislator said Monday.

Sen. Thomas Harnisch, D-Neillsville, said department officials do not "seem to have any policy or position or any set determination they think is best."

The 1975-77 state budget calls for shutting down the Wisconsin Child Center at Sparta and the Oregon School for Girls next June as an economy measure.

An official with the department said Monday that no new cases would be accepted at one of the institutions, located at Sparta, after Jan. 1, as a phase-out gets underway.

The Joint Legislative Committee on Institution Closings, of which Harnisch is a member, is investigating the availability of community-based programs to handle inmates from the institutions.

"I think it's singularly unfortunate that we have to continue in the dark in regard to the agency that has the responsibility for these children," said Harnisch, whose district includes Sparta.

Harnisch's comments followed testimony for the Governor's Advocacy Committee on Children and Youth suggesting that a stay at the Child Care Center may cause problems for youngsters.

In prepared testimony, Wes Halverson said the advocacy committee is concerned about any possible stigma on children committed to Sparta and difficulties children might have adjusting to the outside world after their release.

He said the committee endorses the legislature's decision to close Sparta and recommended the money saved be pumped into alternative child care programs.

Harnisch contended the advocacy committee was attempting to play up the shortcomings of Sparta and other state institutions to channel funds into programs that have not yet proven their worth.

The committee approved his request that the Department of Health and Social Services an-

swer charges made by the advocacy committee and provide clear guidelines for the alternative placement of inmates at Oregon and Sparta.

A department spokesman earlier presented the agency's plan for phasing out Sparta. Budget analyst Stephen Kroner said 29 of the 51 children would be placed in foster homes, 12 in residential treatment centers and three in independent living arrangements, while seven would be returned home.

As part of the plan, the Child Center would accept no new cases after Jan. 1.

Estimated cost of mothballing the institution's buildings in 1976-77 is \$294,500, including \$125,400 in unemployment compensation and \$14,400 in health and sick leave credits for employees laid off.

The department predicts that nearly a third of the 90 state employees at the Child Center will claim unemployment benefits if the institution is shut down.

Jim Radloff, group home coordinator for the Eau Claire area, said many communities may resist creation of foster homes for children from the two institutions.

"Zoning is a bugaboo," he said. "It's almost like the issue of abortion, it is so emotional."

In Eau Claire, for example, a landlord finds it easy to convert a building into an apartment house for students, but there is fierce opposition to converting a building to foster care, Radloff said.

"Frankly," he added, "I would rather live next to a group home, properly run, than a house full of college students any day."

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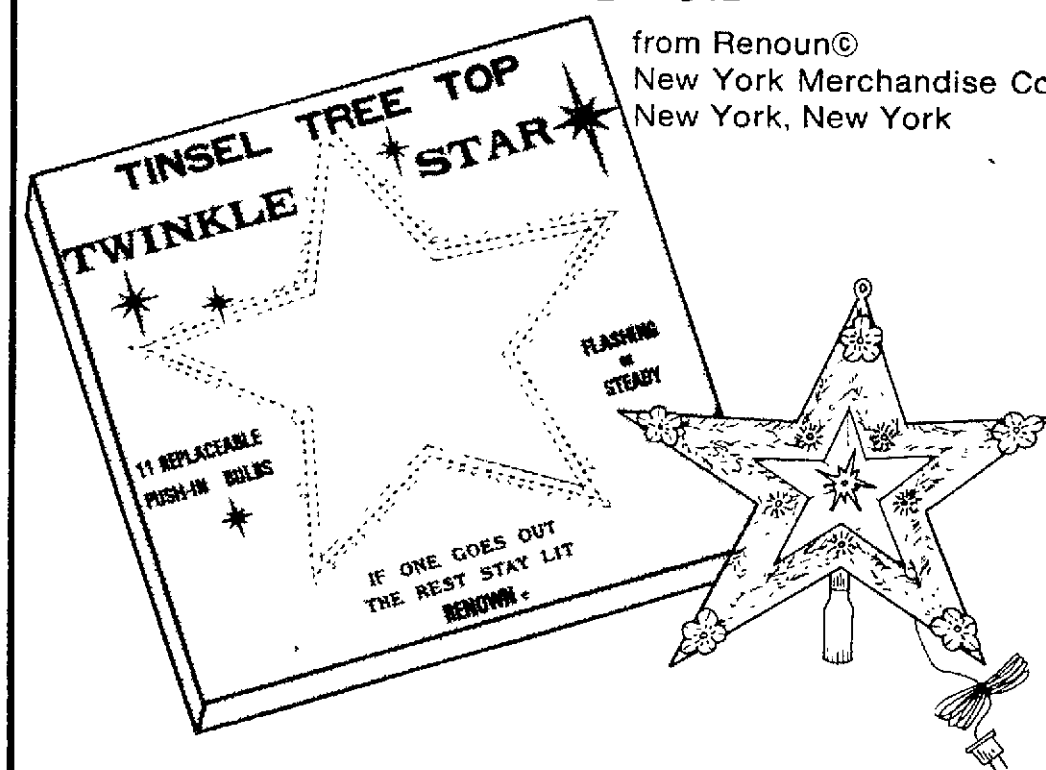
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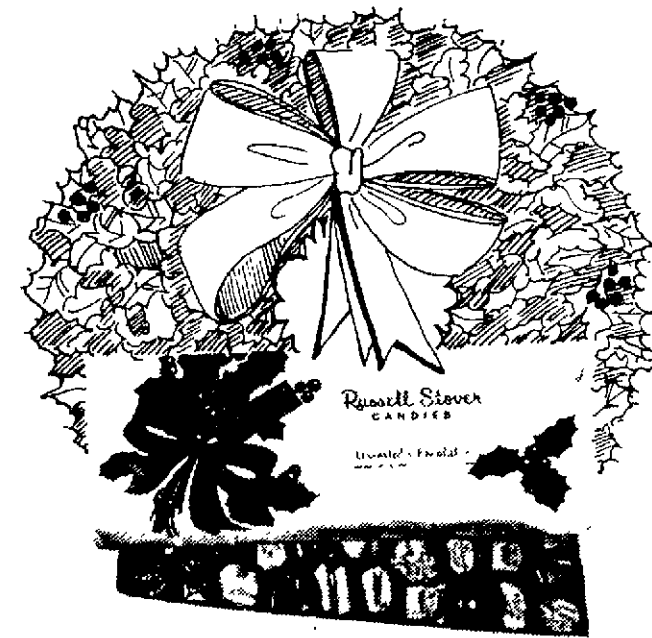


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